

FREDERICK COUNTY RECYCLES!



Recycle More. Waste Less.



*News and Notes from
the Frederick County
Department of Solid
Waste Management*

Volume 2,
Issue 1

February
2010

Inside this issue:

New
Residential
Guidebook ...2

Spot the
"Oops!" ...3

Waste
Reduction ...4-5

Business
Recycling
Opportunities ...6-7



Happy Anniversary!

January 26 marked one year since our single-stream recycling program started.

During the first year of the new single-stream recycling system the residential recycling program experienced a dramatic increase in not only the number of households actively participating, but also in the amount of material being collected. The program witnessed an escalation in the 37% set-out rate from the old dual-stream program; set-out rates in the new single-stream program average around 65%—almost doubled! (The recycling set-out rate is the percentage of households that set-out for curbside pick up on a particular day; it can vary from overall participation in the program, which is typically slightly higher.) And, as is demonstrated in the chart on page two, the tons of material collected from curbside recycling increased an average of 66% between 2008 and 2009!

This achievement is due to a number of factors. The County added new items that could be recycled. Then most residents who were already part of the original dual-stream curbside program were given new 65-gallon carts to make participation more convenient. These larger containers (over three times larger than 18-gallon bins) provided the much-needed room to be able to mix all recyclables together.

The tons of material collected saw a second large increase between April and May 2009; this was due to the addition of 17,000 households new to the curbside program. This achievement marked the first time that every single-family household in the County has been provided with the opportunity to recycle at home. But any great program will not prove successful unless everyone knows about it, participates and follows the guidelines—that's where outreach plays a role.

The County amplified its education efforts by adding new staff to the Office of Recycling team to create newspaper articles, public service announcements and residential communications (including this newsletter) throughout the year. Our staff also attend community events, club and business meetings, and provide displays and programs to local organizations upon request. These ongoing efforts have been made to inform residents of information relevant to the recycling program as well as to introduce the idea of *waste reduction* (see pages 4-5 for more information.)

We could not have done it without you! Ultimately it is residents who ensure this program's success—and look at all we've achieved together in just one year.

The Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management thanks all residents who do their part to recycle more and waste less!

-Dawn Adams, Recycling Program Manager

Residential Guide to Waste Management

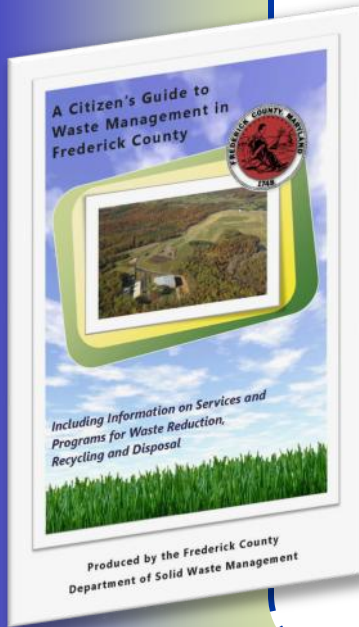
Looking for more information on how, what, where and when to recycle in Frederick County? Wondering about programs *other* than curbside single stream? Have materials like antifreeze, motor oil, scrap metal, old appliances or other things you'd like to recycle or dispose of responsibly?

Check out the new handbook, *A Citizen's Guide to Waste Management in Frederick County*, created by the Department of Solid Waste Management.

This useful booklet can be viewed or downloaded online by visiting:
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/WasteGuide.

(For those without internet access, a printed copy can be obtained by contacting our offices at 301-600-2960.)

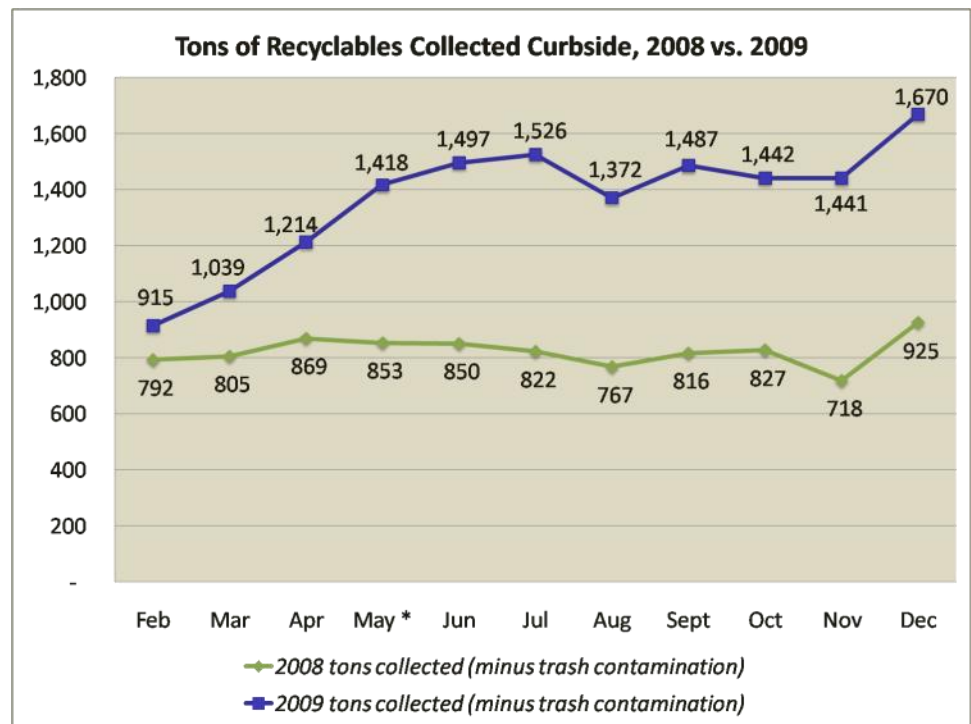
In addition to information on recycling and waste reduction, this guide serves as the definitive residential guide to DSWM facilities and services, such as the landfill (including directions, fees, and regulations) specialized disposal programs such as Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off days, Frederick County's composting program, relevant departmental and municipal contact information, and much more.



The tons of material collected from curbside recycling increased an average of 66% between 2008 and 2009!



Yes! We're Recycling More!



Note: All measurements in this chart are representative of the actual tons of material collected curbside, minus the average percentage of trash contamination occurring in each time period.

*May - Number of residences eligible for curbside collection increased from about 54,000 to about 72,000.

Can You Spot the “Oops!”?

Frederick County residents are doing a great job of supporting and participating in the single stream recycling program...but even avid recyclers with the best of intentions don't always “recycle right”! To find out simple recycling tips and explanations of how the program works, please refer to our handout ‘[Recycling the Right Way](#)’, available online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/oops!

To test your recycling skills...can you spot the common mistakes in these four scenes of local curbside recycling?
(Answers at bottom of this page.)

1.



2.



3.



4.



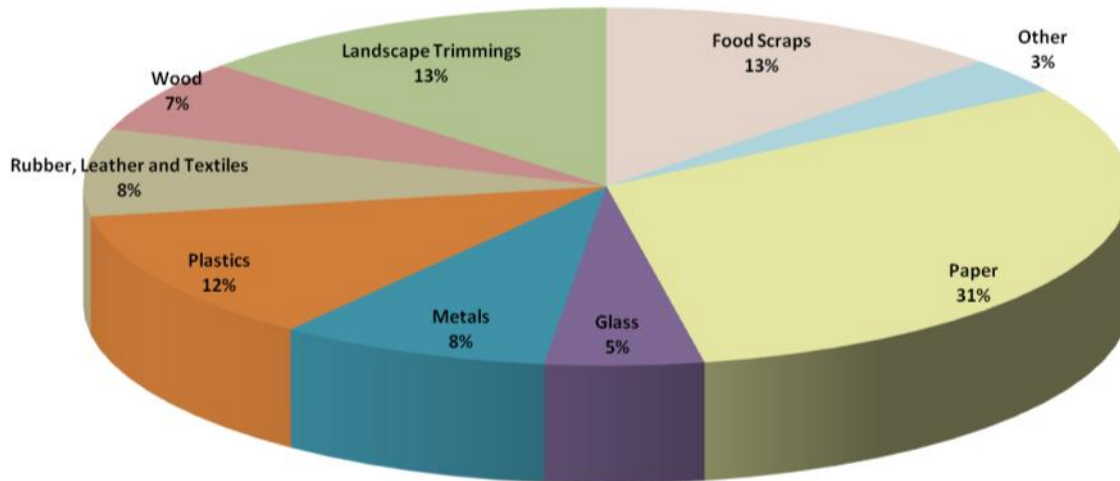
Answers to the “Oops!”:

1. Styrofoam is not recyclable in Frederick County (or in neighboring counties!) Also, please do not overfill your cart; excess recyclables can be set next to a cart, bundled or placed in a box or open paper bag.
2. ***NO mixed recyclable materials*** can be set out inside plastic bags (including white kitchen or black garbage bags). Even though we do want shredded paper to be contained, this material should be placed in *paper* bags or cardboard/paperboard boxes to prevent it from clogging machinery at the sorting facility. Recyclable bags made of #2 or #4 plastic, such as grocery bags, should also be collected together inside a single *recyclable plastic bag*. It's easy—shredded paper goes inside a paper bag or cardboard box, and plastic bags go inside a plastic bag! (And remember, garbage bags are not recyclable!)
3. Frederick County requires everyone participating in the curbside program to use at least one County-issued bin or cart. This makes your items easy for the collection crews to identify—and our containers are sturdy and when used properly, designed to keep materials from littering the landscape.
4. The plastic wrap around the cardboard carton and plastic bag covering the newspaper make these items likely to be disposed of at the sorting facility. Also note that there are recyclables overflowing onto sidewalk while, at the same time, there is an empty 18-gallon bin tucked underneath the full one!

PLEASE do not place mixed recyclables inside plastic bags! If you collect recyclables this way in your home, empty these bags into the curbside container so that items are loose. Bagged goods are very difficult for the sorting crews to process and are often simply disposed of!

Did You Know...?

According to the federal government 250 million tons of municipal solid waste were generated (before recycling) in the United States in 2008. ([EPA data](#))



Green Resolutions That Go Beyond Recycling...

When considering the problem of *too much trash*, recycling is *not* the answer! Well, recycling *alone* cannot solve the problem of too much trash. Recycling is good; it captures resources that might otherwise be wasted. But even the “green” process of recycling has a carbon footprint, creates emissions and requires valuable resources like fuel, money and time. Another key strategy for wise waste management is to **create less waste in the first place!**

Rather than managing the waste we have, **waste reduction** is a strategy for preventing waste before it even occurs. Think of it as “pre-cycling”—all the steps to take *before* there is something left to recycle. Remember, Frederick County’s motto is **Recycle More. Waste Less**. **The box below highlights some suggestions for those who want to practice the “4 R’s” of wise waste management:**

Reject, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **Reject.** Remember, what is convenient now may become waste forever. Avoid buying things that you don’t need and products that are not sustainable, such as: polystyrene and other non-recyclable plastics, single use/disposable items, items with excessive packaging and toxic materials.
- **Reduce.** There are many ways to reduce consumption: You can take advantage of services that reduce the amount of junk mail you receive (such as www.catalogchoice.org or www.41pounds.org.) When possible, buy items in bulk to decrease packaging. Look for energy-efficient and long lasting appliances and electronics. Inventorying your kitchen items and using up what you have is a good way to avoid wasting food.
- **Reuse.** Recognize the value of durable, reusable goods instead of disposable items. Reusable tote bags can be a good alternative to disposable plastic or paper bags. Try an electric razor. Consider using washable cloths instead of paper towels and disposable wipes. When possible, carry, use and refill a reusable bottle. Rechargeable batteries create less waste. Recycled-content products, such as office paper and tissues can save resources. Resale organizations (such as those listed on the next page) are a great way to extend a product’s life.
- **Then Recycle.** Of the waste that is left, recycle those materials accepted in Frederick County's program.

Learn More...and Have Fun Too!

Join us at Harry Grove Stadium on Friday April 23, 2010 for Earth Day festivities! We're teaming up with the Frederick Keys to celebrate our local accomplishments and offer more information about waste reduction and recycling. Come take the quiz-bin challenge or spin the waste reduction trivia wheel; you'll learn something new and win a prize too! There will be "going green" features throughout the baseball game and the first 1,000 guests to arrive will receive a special bonus! Purchase tickets at the stadium, or by calling 301-662-0013, or online at: www.frederickkeys.com

Local Resources for Waste Reduction

Throwing something away may be convenient, but it's also permanent. While some things simply have no more use, unfortunately many things that are disposed of still have value. When possible, donate reusable items to help extend a product's life and conserve resources.

There are many programs that can help residents create less waste, save landfill space, protect the environment, contribute to the local economy, and conserve resources for future generations. The following listings are for three local groups that are involved in redistributing used goods. This is only a sample of such organizations and is not an endorsement for any particular business or service.

The Frederick Rescue Mission

The Rescue Mission provides free quality clothing and furniture to our community's working poor. Clothing, furniture and appliance donations are accepted at 419 West South Street in Frederick, or pickup from your home can be arranged by calling: 301-695-6633. www.therescuemission.org

Goodwill Industries

By donating to or buying things from Goodwill, you not only reuse items but also support job training and placement programs for people with disabilities and disadvantages. Stores take in and resell: clothing, bedding, appliances, toys, books, furniture and more. Goodwill also has established an E-Waste Initiative to seek economically and environmentally sound ways to recycle and reuse donated electronic equipment. Two locations: 5831 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, 301-668-5363 and 202 E. Main Street, Thurmont, 301-271-2100. www.goodwill.com

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

This outlet provides quality, used and surplus building materials and home furnishings at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds help local affiliates fund the construction of Habitat houses within our community. To buy or donate useable construction materials, windows, doors, furnishings and appliances visit their store at 1109 East Patrick Street in Frederick. For more information call (301) 662-2988. www.habitat.org



EARTH DAY
April 22, 2009

According to Kathleen Rogers, president of the Earth Day Network (which was founded by the original organizers of Earth Day) this holiday is now celebrated by more than a billion people in 180 nations around the world every year.

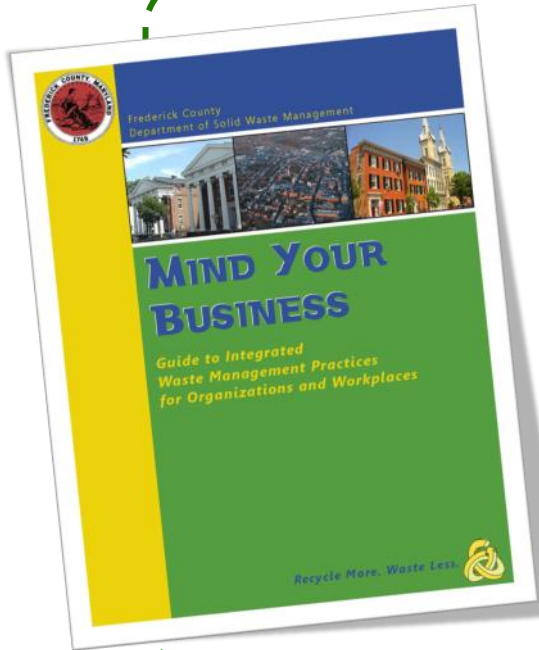
For more information on worldwide and local Earth Day activities visit:

www.earthday.net

The Department of Solid Waste Management will mark the holiday with multiple events and public presentations.

Check our website for updates this spring and keep an eye out for our special Earth Day bulletin in April.

Business Recycling...Bring Your Good Habits To Work!



Free Guidebook for Businesses

Did you know that recycling could actually save your business money?

Frederick County now has a free guide to waste management for organizations and workplaces, *'Mind Your Business: Guide to Integrated Waste Management for Organizations and Workplaces'*. This invaluable handbook is full of facts, figures and resources to help local businesses become more "green." It includes step-by-step plans for starting, maintaining and expanding business recycling programs.

The guidebook can be viewed or printed on our website:

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/businessrecycle

For more information, or to request a printed copy of the guidebook, please contact Dave Helmecki, Frederick County's Commercial Recycling Program Coordinator, by calling 301-600-7404, or sending email to

DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Local Business Spotlight: Buckingham's Choice

Quality Service Through Recycling and Composting

Buckingham's Choice—a faith-based, non-profit, continuing-care retirement community located in Adamstown—boasts 137 cottages and 80 apartments that allow retirees to experience a convenient, comfortable environment from which to enjoy the many pleasures that Frederick County has to offer. Among the many services that Buckingham's Choice provides to their residents is curbside trash and recycling collection.

Their recycling program began in 2004. As Frederick County's recycling program advanced so did the services at Buckingham's Choice. "Many of our residents recycled prior to moving here", said Buckingham's Choice Executive Director, Collier Baird III. "We strive to provide the highest quality level of service to our residents. We see recycling and waste reduction as not only helping control our costs, but also providing an elevated level of service that our residents have come to expect."

Buckingham's Choice started out collecting only paper products when they first began recycling. They then added cans, bottles, jars and plastics as time went on, even though these items required sorting. Recently they modified their program to mirror the County's single stream residential program and now collect all of the same materials, mixed together in one convenient recycling container. This ever-improving program has resulted in over 30% of their waste being recycled.

Not satisfied with just recycling the usual items, Bob Webb, Director of Dining Services and Executive Chef, with the assistance of the Dining Staff, has recently begun diverting their *pre-consumer, non-meat* food scraps to a local hog farm for consumption by livestock. "We realized that the waste that remained after recycling consisted mostly of food scraps", said Webb. "We searched for a solution that would allow us to recycle this waste also. By partnering with a local farmer it was a win-win situation for both businesses."

For more information on Buckingham's Choice recycling program please contact Robert Webb at 301-644-1620 or webbr@emaseniorcare.org.

2010 Waste Reduction Award Recognizes Efforts Made by County Businesses and Organizations

Applications for the Second Annual Waste Reduction Award Program Are Available Now

Recycling has long been recognized as a method of achieving positive environmental and economic impacts for businesses, but wise waste management involves more than just recycling, it incorporates waste reduction as well. A program has been developed in order to acknowledge the innovative steps that many local businesses are enacting to create less waste: the annual **Frederick County Waste Reduction Award**.

The Department of Solid Waste Management, in conjunction with The Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, City of Frederick Economic Development and the Downtown Frederick Partnership will select businesses and organizations located throughout the County that have implemented or expanded innovative and successful waste reduction programs.

Any Frederick County business can apply; the deadline to apply is March 26, 2010. Applications are available online:

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/businessrecycle

For more info call Dave Helmecki at 301-600-7404.

Completed award applications may be faxed to 301-600-3044, emailed to DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov or mailed to:

The Department Solid Waste Management
9031 Reichs Ford Road, Frederick, MD 21704.

Applications must be received by Thursday, March 26 to be considered!



A Timely Reminder: The Maryland Recycling Act

2009 Data Now Due

The Board of County Commissioners set the goal of diverting 60% of our waste by the year 2024. Help Frederick County get credit where credit is due! The 60% is based in part on the recycling information that we gather from many sources—including businesses—and submit to the State of Maryland, Department of the Environment. By submitting as accurate data as possible you are helping us account for all the recycling activity that is occurring within Frederick County.

The due date to submit this information to the Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management is:

February 26, 2010.

~ Response information can be kept confidential upon request. ~

Recyclable materials tracked include:

- **Compostables:** mixed yard waste, wood waste, food waste
- **Glass:** containers, mixed glass, fluorescent light tubes
- **Metals:** cans, scrap, white goods
- **Paper:** corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, books, phone books, shredded paper
- **Plastic:** mixed plastics, films, containers
- **Other Materials Include:** laser toner cartridges, lead-acid batteries, oil filters, wood pallets, etc.

The Department of Solid Waste Management mailed out MRA reporting forms in January. A copy of the reporting form may be obtained from our website:

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/MRA

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

March 14, 2010

Daylight Savings Time Begins

When the clocks "spring forward" don't forget that you still need to have your recyclables placed curbside by 6am of your collection days!

March 19, 2010

MRA Reporting Forms Due From Local Businesses

Forms available online and may be submitted by fax, email or postal service. See page 7 for more information.

March 26, 2010

Application Deadline for Waste Reduction Award

Local businesses and organizations that have taken steps to create less waste (such as recycling, green purchasing programs, composting, etc.) can apply for possible recognition of their efforts. See pg.7 for more info.

April 2, 2010

Good Friday, County Holiday

There will be no curbside pick up of recyclables on this day; collection will slide to the next day, Saturday April 3 instead.

April 17, 2010

'Earth Machine' Compost Bin Sale

Get ready for spring and "go green" at this major sales event to take place in the Frederick Towne Mall parking lot from 9am until 3pm. More information will be released in our 'Earth Day News Flash' in April, as well as posted online and advertised locally. Do the rot thing...try composting!

April 23, 2010

Earth Day Celebration with the Frederick Keys!

Bring the whole family to Harry Grove Stadium to celebrate this environmental holiday and our local achievements! Information on recycling and waste reduction will be available—along with prizes and fireworks! See page 5 for more info.

May 22, 2010

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day (free)

Hazardous wastes are not accepted in Frederick County's recycling program, but should be kept out of the environment—and our landfill. Join us for our free, spring drop-off of residential hazardous materials: 8am-12pm at 8349 Reichs Ford Road. More information available on our website: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/hazwaste



Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management

9031 Reichs Ford Road
Frederick, MD 21704

Office of Recycling: 301-600-2960
E-mail: recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Landfill: 301-600-2890



Recycling service questions and concerns, including requests for recycling carts, pick-up schedule inquiries, missed collections, etc., should be directed your contracted service provider—Allied Waste Services—by calling 301-694-6498 or sending email to: frederickrecycles@republicservices.com